

Mirka Knaster

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<https://www.mirkaart.com/>

Letter of Interest for Sebastopol Public Art—*Wheels for Peace*

Wheels for Peace is a natural outgrowth of my ongoing cross-cultural experiences. Born in Italy to parents from Poland, and then immigrating to the U.S., I have found myself moving all over the world. Living, working, and traveling in so many places has taught me that, despite differences in language, customs, food, environment, and the arts, there are aspects which unify rather than separate us. One which is vital to global well-being is that each culture has a word, expression, or symbol signifying “peace.”

Current political rhetoric, divisive mongering, and “other” bashing have fostered a pervasive mood of negativity and fear. As a visual and kinesthetic installation, *Wheels for Peace* aims to counterbalance it by creating an “atmosphere” of peace, one in which people can feel at ease rather than afraid or assaulted. Peace is far more than an intellectual concept. It is a felt experience accessible through our body’s senses and available to those who choose it over violence. Through the simplicity of form and color, anyone walking inside and around the circle of wheels has an opportunity to enjoy a moment of pleasurable calm. And, for those who are so inclined, this is also a chance to reflect on the fact that diverse spiritual traditions—not just our own—across the planet incorporate prayers and other practices for peace.

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Art Description/Depiction—*Wheels for Peace*

Five wheels are arranged in a circle, circumference according to the space available. As a universal symbol, the circle represents ideals of wholeness, perfection, totality, the infinite, timelessness, and cyclic movement. The peace icon that is internationally recognized is also a circle.

Each of 5 recycled bicycle wheels sits atop 3 painted 10-foot rebars that are driven 2 feet into the ground. Weather-resistant polypropylene webbed “ribbons” in 17 colors hang alternately from the rim of each wheel between spokes. Machine-stitched to the bottom end of each ribbon, a laminated pouch contains a double-sided white label. Printed in black on one side is a word for peace from more than 90 languages, from Afrikaans to Zulu. The reverse side indicates which language/country the expression comes from.

In the center of the circle stands another bicycle wheel on rebars, at a height low enough for people to be able to reach and tie their own aspirations for peace to the rim and rebars. A table or small stand can be set up where visitors to the garden can use Sharpies to write their wishes on white strips (materials to be provided in a box). The fixed hanging ribbons and the tied ribbons flutter colorfully when a breeze arises, similar to Tibetan prayer flags sending prayers of good will into the atmosphere. There will also be a printed description about the project and the importance of cross-cultural understanding and welcome, along with instructions for participation in the installation.

Liability Waiver:



**City of Sebastopol
General Agreement, Waiver, and Release**

Activity description (describe in detail the type of event/activity and the tools that may be used to perform the activity:
installation of public art project, Wheels for Peace

In consideration of the acceptance of my application as a volunteer for the City of Sebastopol, I hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damages for death, personal injury, or property damage which I may have, or which hereafter accrue to me, against the City of Sebastopol as a result of my participation as a volunteer for the City of Sebastopol. This release is intended to discharge the City of Sebastopol, its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers, any other involved municipalities or public agencies from and against any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my participation as a volunteer for the City of Sebastopol, even though that liability may arise out of the negligence or carelessness on the part of persons or Entities mentioned above. I further understand that accidents and injuries can arise out of participation as a volunteer; knowing the risks, nevertheless, I hereby agree to assume those risks and to release and to hold harmless all of the persons or agencies mentioned above who (through negligence or carelessness) might otherwise be liable to me (or my heirs or assigns) for damages. It is further understood and agreed that this waiver, release, and assumption of risk is to be binding on my heirs and assigns.

I further agree to indemnify and to hold the above City of Sebastopol, its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers free and harmless from any loss, liability, damage, cost or expense which they may incur as a result of any injury and/or property damage that I may sustain while participating in said activity.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT, WAIVER, AND RELEASE AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT BETWEEN MYSELF AND THE ABOVE CITY, AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

(Each participant must personally sign.)

Mirka Knaster
 Signature

Mirka Knaster
 Print Name of Signer/Participant

11/29/23
 Date

redacted
 Street Address, City, Zip Code

redacted
 Phone Number

Parental Consent: (if applicable)

If applicant is under age 18, parent/guardian must complete the following: As parent/guardian of this minor, I have reviewed the General Agreement, Waiver, and Release form and give my consent for:

Name: _____

Age: _____

To participate in the said activity description listed above subject to the terms and conditions expressed herein and above.

 Signature of Parent/Guardian

 Print Name of Parent/Guardian

 Date

 Street Address, City, Zip Code

 Phone Number

From: Mirka Knaster <mirkaknaster@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:14 PM

To: Nzuzi Mahungu <nmahungu@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Subject: Public Art Proposal for Community Sculpture Garden

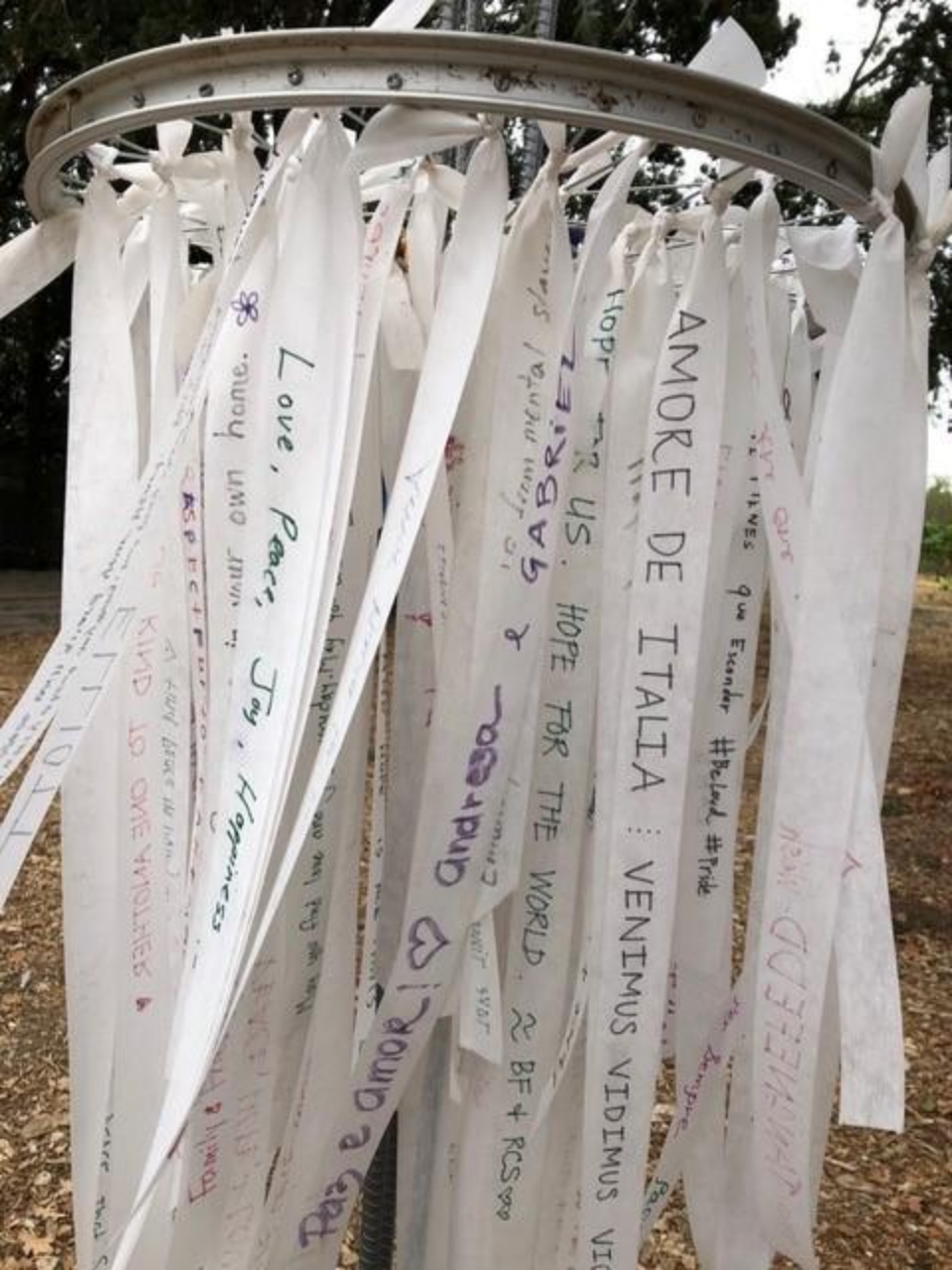
Dear Nzuzi Mahungu,

Attached are the materials required for the Call: Letter of interest; art description (includes how project is installed) and photos; waiver of liability. Yes, I confirm that the project will be ready for installation in January 2024.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mirka Knaster





Love, Peace, Joy, Happiness
* away uno mivi *

Pass e amore ♡

Andressa

HOPE FOR THE WORLD. ~ BF + PCSI 00

AMORE DE ITALIA ; VENIMUS VIDIMUS VIC
HOPE FOR US.

que Escander #Beland #Pride

QUEEEEEEEEDD

KIND TO ONE WHOSE

Family & Friends

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